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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

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50X1-HUM

SUBJECT: The Meat Market at the End of 1947

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

THE MARCH 1968 EDITION OF THE NEWSPAPER CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:
"THE STAFF OF THE NEWSPAPER ARE CONCERNED OVER THE EXPANSION OF THE
U.S. AIR FORCE IN ASIA. ITS PRESENCE CAN THREATEN THE SECURITY OF THE
PEOPLES OF ASIA AND CAN LEAD TO THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.
IT IS THE DUTY OF THE NEWSPAPER TO EXPOSE THESE THREATS AND TO ADVOCATE
THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE AND SECURITY FOR ALL THE PEOPLES OF ASIA.
WE CALL UPON THE PEOPLE OF ASIA TO JOIN US IN THIS STRUGGLE."

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH
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1. Polish farmers have made great efforts since the war to increase their live-stock, but in spite of help from UNRRA the industry has gradually deteriorated. Lack of hay, caused by the long drought of 1947, affected cattle breeding, and the official low prices provide no incentive for the breeding of pigs. Cattle and pigs originally destined for sale are frequently slaughtered by farmers themselves, since it is not worthwhile selling them. As a result, there is an acute shortage of meat products in the towns. They may be sold only three times a week, and long queues form outside butcher shops from early dawn, since available supplies are sold out very quickly. The rise in prices for other foods has accentuated the demand for meat at the same time that official low prices for meat have caused it almost to disappear from the legal market. There is widespread illegal slaughtering of livestock, and black market prices for meat are 50-100% higher than the official prices. The Exchequer has further aggravated the shortage by its policy of levying taxes at the moment of slaughter, regardless of the fact that the butchers frequently make no profit whatsoever. The Excise and Taxation offices assess the profits at approximately 11% of the turnover and disregard the profit or loss shown in the books. Thus any attempt at honest bookkeeping are discouraged. Moreover, the higher the turnover the larger the income tax levied, so the butchers try to have a small turnover and sell very little.
 2. In order to stabilize the chaotic conditions in the meat market throughout the country, the Government recently created the special office of the State Commissar to tackle the whole problem. Its head quarters is in Warsaw, and it has voivodship branches. Its work covers all aspects of the trade, including legislation on trading in animals; the setting up of a proper system of middle-men, the organizing of markets, slaughterhouses, and cold storage plants, and, above all, increasing the quantity of livestock and organising meat exports. This State Commissar Office is meeting with many difficulties, since there is little or no coordination between the various official bodies concerned.
 3. The following ministries and offices also have a say in meat marketing matters:
 - a. The Department for the Turnover of Animal Products of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.
 - b. The Office of the Provisioning Fund (Puchacz Arprodzimowy).

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- c. The Price Control Office.
- d. The Central Planning Office.
- e. The Ministry of Agriculture.
- f. The Ministry of Food.

In addition, the following institutions, run on state capital, also endeavor to influence or control the meat market and stock breeding policies:

- g. The Central Agricultural Office for Meat.
 - h. The State Canned Food Industry.
 - i. The Union of Peasant Self-help Cooperatives.
4. The Provisioning Fund provides the workers with meat allocations on ration cards. It buys quantities of meat for immediate requirements at prices laid down by itself. The Fund disregards the fact that these large purchases lower the quality of the cattle in the country, and that the enforced low prices discourage the peasants from further breeding activities.
 5. Within the Ministry of Industry and Commerce there are four offices in actual competition with each other: The Price Control Office, the State Commissar, the Department of the Turnover of Animal Products, and the Office of the Provisioning Fund. The upkeep of each of these bodies is costly, and each tries to justify its own existence.
 6. The Central Agricultural Office for Meat (Rolnicza Centralna Miesna), a limited company with state-owned capital, is in charge of the selling of slaughter products purchased by agricultural cooperatives. The State disapproved of the fact that this company was a purely commercial concern and posted PPR members in it to bring it into line politically and to bring about a lowering of the salaries of those workers considered politically uncertain. As a result, large numbers of experts and trained employees resigned from the Company.

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